



# GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JUNE 2015 VOLUME 6 ISSUE 6

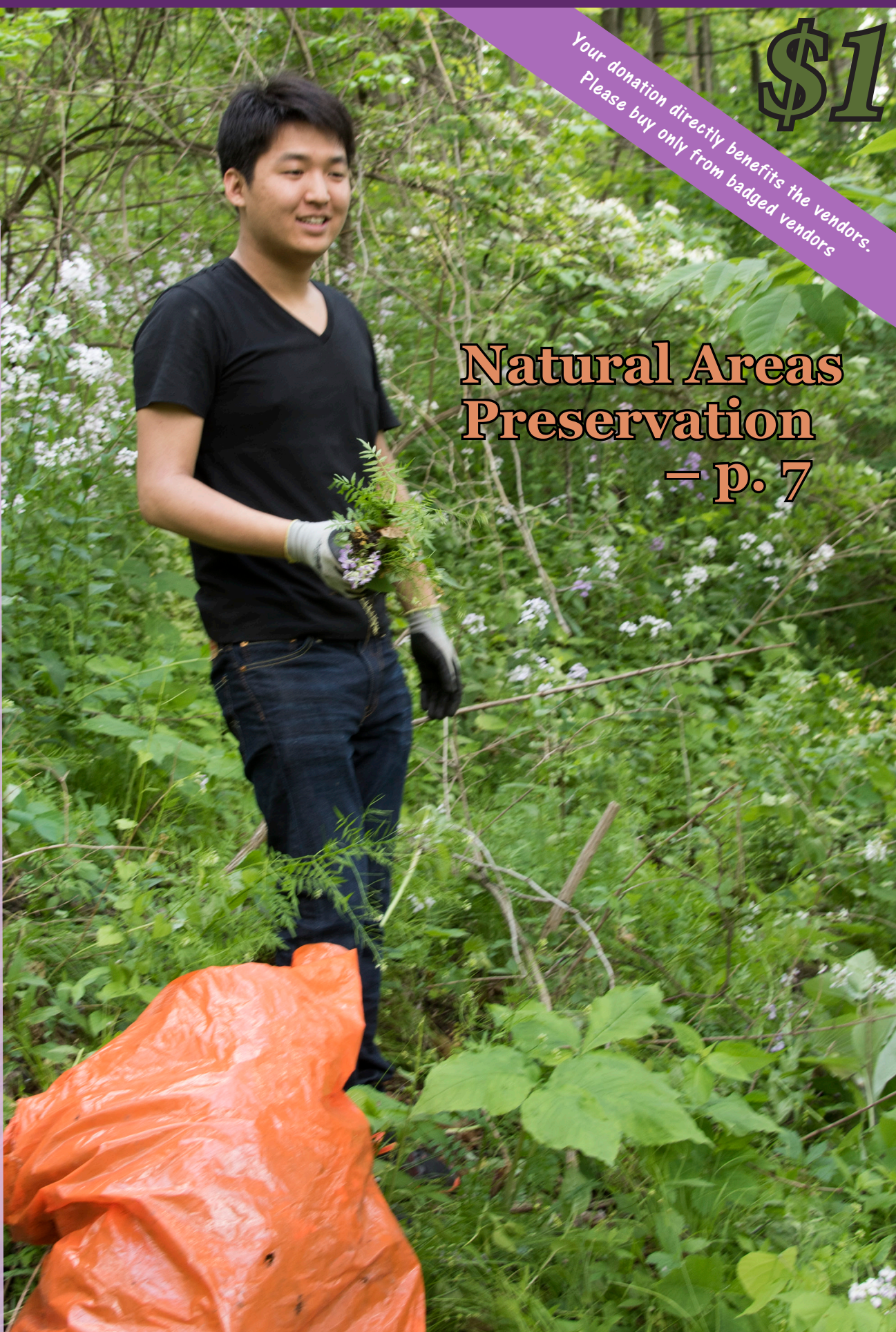
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## Whose state is this?



by Susan Beckett  
Publisher

"Corporations and financial investors must learn to put long-term sustainability over short-term profit and to recognize that the financial bottom line is secondary to and at the service of the common good," said Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace at an April conference convened by Pope Francis to address the issue of climate change.

Based on what is happening in Michigan, the cardinal's cry is far from being heeded.

Our roads are dilapidated and voters

made it clear they want them fixed – but not by increasing the sales tax, which falls heavily onto those with lower and middle incomes. State legislators refuse to tax businesses to replace some of the \$1.6 billion of tax revenue lost when the Michigan Business Tax was replaced by the 6 percent Corporate Income Tax. According to the Michigan League for Public Policy, Michigan now receives only 2 percent of tax revenues from businesses and ranks 49th of all states in business revenue.

Reliant as they are on campaign contributions from wealthy donors, legislators shrink from taxing businesses owned by their patrons. Instead, House Representatives propose taking money from job growth programs, raising registration fees for hybrid and electric vehicles, raising taxes on gasoline – which is especially burdensome to those families struggling to get by juggling several part-time jobs and the childcare needs of their children – and eliminating the already-reduced state Earned Income Tax Credit on which the working poor rely for survival.

In another demonstration of bias, the

State Senate voted not only to repeal the prevailing wage law that requires contractors on government jobs to pay construction workers in accordance with the area's prevailing union wages; they also attached a \$75,000 appropriation to it – ostensibly to disseminate information about it – but actually to block voters from getting it on the ballot as an issue for the electorate to decide themselves, a move that Senator Curtis Hertel (a Democrat from East Lansing) called "the height of political cowardice." Five Republican senators joined the Michigan Democrats opposing this bill.

"I would implore my colleagues to ask themselves, when you're accused of supporting the corporations in place of the working man... are you?" declaimed Senator Tom Casperson, a Republican from Escanaba.



Does it not seem time for serious campaign finance reform and anti-corruption measures?

### GROUNDCOVER

#### MISSION:

*Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.*

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Groundcover Editors,

I recently saw a quote by Sen. Bernie Sanders on Facebook, saying "We've cut back on education. We've cut back on nutrition programs. We've thrown kids off Head Start..." This relates directly to a concern of mine that I want to share with you.

I believe that the GOP/Tea Party agenda amounts to a War on Children, and I was very glad to see Sen. Sanders express some of my concerns in his recent message.

The Tea Party and some GOP governors have blocked children's access to health care by refusing to accept the Medicaid expansion. They have endangered children's nutrition by cutting Food Stamps and school lunch programs. They have undermined education by cutting back on public schools, cutting back on Head Start, diverting funds to charter schools, and advocating for teaching creationism rather than science – which could lead to our children being unable to get good jobs in the future. They have harmed children by

refusing to extend Unemployment Insurance, causing children to lose their homes, suffer hunger, and go without medical care.

They have harmed children by refusing to raise the minimum wage. They have permitted corporations to poison our environment and our food supply for profit, damaging our children and their future health and safety. They have undermined the welfare of our children by supporting laws and policies which reward sending jobs overseas.

I believe that this War on Children is real and that bringing this into the public eye will help Americans realize just how damaging the GOP/Tea Party agenda is to our country.

Jan L. Herrick, Howell, MI

## Mistake in article

Dear Susan,

I just read your "Making Progress in Food Justice" opinion piece in the April Groundcover. I'm writing to ask about your statement that reads "Their campaign to add an additional penny per pound moves them into a living wage." This would mean that the workers' pay would go from 1 penny for a 40 lb. bucket to 41 cents per bucket, an increase of more than 4,000 percent. Did you really intend to write "an additional penny per BUCKET"?

Robert Pehlke, Jr.

*Mr. Pehlke is indeed correct – the workers were asking for an additional penny per 40 lb. bucket, not per pound. We appreciate his careful reading of the article and calling this to our attention.*



## Walking home together – anyone up for a walk?



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell  
Groundcover Contributor

I am a walker at heart. I always have been. Ever since childhood, walking has been a daily rhythm for me. My parents were not really outdoor types, but they did encourage my brother and me to walk. We walked to school, a couple miles across town to the library, and to a local park for winter skating.

In the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York where I grew up, we hiked Fillmore Glen and Watkins Glen with their deep gorges, high cliffs, and multiple waterfalls. I have a very early memory of summer walking over big boulders and among the ruins of a formerly grand home on one of the Thousand Islands in the St. Lawrence Seaway. A few years later, we logged tens of miles along the sandy beaches

on both the ocean and bay sides of Cape Cod and up and down countless dirt roads in Vermont.

The years I was in Ann Arbor, I enjoyed so many pedestrian possibilities in and about the neighborhood where I lived and downtown not far from the church. And a favorite holiday treat for me was the Labor Day Walk up north across the Mackinac Bridge. On visits back to the area, I often meet friends on the labyrinth and trails of Matthaei Botanical Gardens, at Dexter's Mill Creek trail and in Bird Hills. Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County have a wealth of enticing walks.

I love to get to know a place on foot, to literally imprint the memory of it within me as I walk. Walking is an effective way for me to plan, to work through something that is troubling me, to get regular exercise, and to be in a mindful and spiritually open state. Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh repeatedly writes short pieces on the beauty of reflective, wakeful walking.

One of the best parts of walking is that the pace is slow enough to allow one to notice and even to be surprised by what is encountered along the way.

A friend in Ann Arbor, who regularly reads Groundcover News, sent me an email in the last month stating that she considers me "a companion on the road." Her comment was the seed for this month's column. I regard all of us who read, write for, sell, and purchase the paper as companions.

Companion is such a lovely word with the root meaning of breaking bread with another. A lot of nourishment is shared back and forth within the community of companions gathered around the paper. This street paper allows us together to create a hospitable space as we journey. In different ways we accompany one another with awareness, with a fuller seeing of each other, with the vulnerability of sharing our stories and what matters most to us, and with sustained work around issues that touch all our lives.

In my two daughters' early years, we had a favorite sketch on Sesame Street. It featured three pigs all decked out in fancy hats, heels, and jewelry with bling. As they strutted, while taking into account the Walk and Don't Walk signs, they carried a spirited tune, "I Got a New Way to Walk, Walk, Walk." I remember how we enjoyed that sketch, and smile thinking about Groundcover News as a new way to walk, walk, walk.

Spiritual teacher and author Ram Dass is often quoted with his line: "We are all just walking one another home." The walking route home has questions, discoveries, sadness, new life in an array of forms, times when we are in harmony and times when we struggle to be side-by-side, and enough giftedness to keep us on course. Home, our places of deep belonging and meaning-making, are precious indeed. Our walk toward home is enriched as we risk taking it together. Where do you like to walk? Who are your companions, your walking partners, those with you on the walk home?

## An Open Letter to the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission

On Nov. 10, 2014 Aura Rosser, a local African American artist and mother of three, was shot and killed by the AAPD. Her death, and the nation-wide pattern of state violence directed at Black Americans, continues to push our group, Ann Arbor to Ferguson, to act and plan for a better future. We had the impression that you, too, were shaken into action by Aura's death.

However, you have changed your mind about working with us as full partners. Initially we were invited by Sumi Kailasapathy to participate in the HRC subcommittee working on the creation of a civilian police oversight board. We delegated a subcommittee to work with you from our organization, empowering them to represent us and work toward our goal of creating a basic institution, which exists in various formulations all over this country and internationally, that would strive to improve police accountability and transparency to the communities they serve. The AAPD complaint process is far from transparent, with the complaint form not being available to the public, and only one sergeant being responsible for filling out the form and deciding whether a complaint is legitimate. Further, the public has no access to the record of complaints, nor to the professional standards guiding the AAPD.

We feel disappointment and distrust following our interaction with HRC. We attended all of the meetings; we gave you our time, ideas, resources, and

research. We even directed law interns that were working with us to you, only to be shut out of the conversation thereafter. We were told that our engagement would make the process "biased" and that police representatives would have to be invited as well. We did not oppose this, and it is important to note that police representatives were never outside of your process; you have been meeting with Chief Seto regularly. By calling our communal demands "biased," you in fact encourage the division between police and community, making quite clear that the police are not here to serve us. This begs the question: Exactly what community you are willing to work with?

We take this opportunity to reiterate our vision of a civilian police oversight commission. These demands reflect those of the national movement against police brutality and racist policing.

*The oversight commission will improve transparency by:*

- a) notifying the public of the use of lethal weapons by the police
- b) collecting, analyzing and investigating complaints against police, using subpoena power, and making the analysis available to the public
- c) notifying the public of the current professional standards followed by the AAPD

*The oversight commission will consist of folks that are representative of the*

*community; this can be done either by election, or by making sure that the commission's demographic aligns with either the demographic makeup of community complainants, or the demographic makeup of the county jail.*

*The oversight commission may employ independent investigators.*

*The oversight commission will make policy recommendations to the City Council and the AAPD regarding training, informed by anti-racist, feminist and LGBTQ ally principles.*

*The oversight commission will participate in the hiring and firing of AAPD officers and administration, being guided by evidence of the number and severity of complaints, as well as evidence of implicit bias.*

*The oversight commission will have communication with the court and correctional facilities, so as to be able to intervene on behalf of the public in cases of emergency (such as wrongful arrest and denial of medication while incarcerated). This may be done by creating a county-wide oversight commission, which may consist of independent and cooperating individual city oversight commissions.*

*The oversight com-*

*mission will make sure that police and civilians interact in a positive way:*

- a) by organizing social events (sports, barbeques, etc.)
- b) by requiring that police officers live near the communities they serve
- c) by organizing workshops with students and community members of a variety of ethnic groups, celebrating cultural creativity and fostering mutual respect and cooperation

*The oversight commission will follow the principles of restorative justice, encouraging dialogue and healing.*

*The expenses of the oversight commission, if any, will be funded by the City; one way to create such a fund is to reallocate some of the current \$25,000,000 budget.*

Sincerely,  
**Ann Arbor to Ferguson**



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## Local students seeking options catch the WAVE

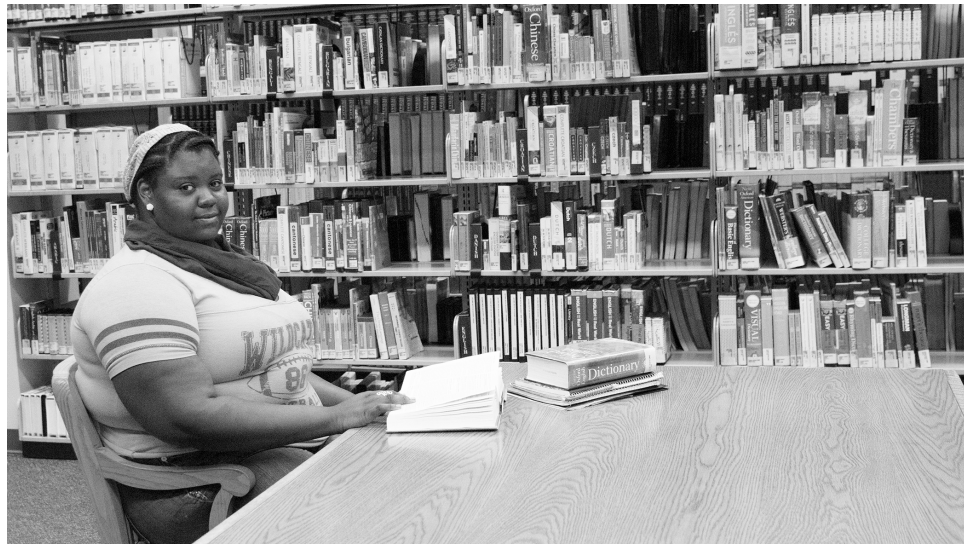
by Alice Newell  
Groundcover Contributor

Every teen dreams of completing high school, walking across a stage and being handed their diploma by a principal. But when personal difficulties arise, many choose to give up rather than seek other options to reach their educational goal.

Washtenaw County has an alternative high school that gives students a choice other than quitting: the Washtenaw Alliance of Virtual Education (WAVE). It began in the fall of 2010 and has existed for a stretch of five years. It aims to close the gap between the barriers that a student faces and attaining his or her high school diploma. The WAVE offers hope to struggling students by helping them realize their learning potential.

WAVE is located at 301 W. Michigan Ave., Suite 201, inside the KeyBank Building in downtown Ypsilanti. The school is a part of Washtenaw Intermediate School District's participation in the Washtenaw Educational Options Consortium, a learner-centered secondary school option program for all Washtenaw County students.

WAVE is an update to one of the anchor programs designed for teens seeking a non-traditional high school education experience through their home school district. The program is free for students who are between the ages of 15 and 19 and live within Washtenaw County. It is a flexible, student-centered, project-based approach to learning. The school provides the student with a computer and Internet connectivity in order for the participant to access their lessons online. Students work at their own pace with help through online content assistance from specialists and teachers. Caring staff work together to design and implement an academic curriculum that meets the State's standards in preparing students to further their education and career skills.



**Robin Newell (the author's daughter) will graduate from the WAVE program in June.**

WAVE operates year-round and mostly online. There is a two-week break during major holidays in both winter and spring plus another for the Fourth of July. Class schedules vary for each WAVE participant. The majority of the participant's assignments are completed at home online, but a student is required to make two onsite lab visit sessions per week. There are two lab locations for the students to utilize. The first is at their main office in downtown Ypsilanti – Suite 201 in the KeyBank building – operating Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The second lab is in downtown Ann Arbor at the Ann Arbor District Library on the 3rd floor every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. These labs make it convenient for students to get the help they need with teachers, advisors and tutors who are readily available to aid each participant.

Teachers and advisors work as a team to guide each student to recognize their learning and skill development. The team's ultimate goal is to assist students in seeing their potential from different perspectives as they pursue high school completion. Removing distractions helps ease and open the mind of students so they can absorb their assignments comprehensively.

"Despite the many kids that come to the school from different backgrounds and circumstances, a casual environment makes it easy for students to fit in," one of WAVE's advisors, George Cafcalas, said.

WAVE also offers opportunities for career exploration, job readiness and job placement upon a student's completion of high school. Electives are made available to senior year students, through which they work with their advisors on their post-graduation plans.

Support services include referrals to work programs, college preparatory and other community resources to help a participant to transition into a college or career. However, these supportive services are only available to the participants up to age 20.

WAVE's program director, Monique Uzelac, said that "the school aims to graduate between 60 and 70 students per year. There were 63 graduates from each of the classes of 2013 and 2014, which was over a quarter of their student body. The same is expected with this year's upcoming class."

WAVE is an example of how a flexible curriculum, caring staff and individualized support can bring about a positive change in a teen who thought that quitting was the only option. We live in a fast-paced world of technical advancement, but it's the one-on-one attention of these online programs that provides a struggling teen a path in the right direction.

Educational facilities and youth organizations can learn more and refer students to WAVE by calling the main office at (734) 761-7207 or visiting their website: [wavewashtenaw.org](http://wavewashtenaw.org).



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## Minimize potential liability and risk

by **Angie Martell**  
Groundcover Contributor

Whether you are an existing business owner or looking to open a business, you need to think about creating the vision of what you want. As a holistic attorney, I often counsel businesses in how to minimize potential liability and risk by adopting a holistic business model.

A holistic business model considers the entire organization in its processes and policies and employee relationships as opposed to merely focusing on specific components. Healthy businesses run on their full potential as opposed to having strong and weak areas.

If you are contemplating opening a business, you need to think about what is the best structure for you – for example, a limited liability corporation (LLC), a Partnership, a C Corporation, a Sole Proprietorship, or an S Corporation.

If you already have a business, then to reach your goals you have to lay a proper foundation. Contemplating and assessing risk is a must to good business development.

Four key areas of good business practice are: legal rigor, financial management, records management, and customer relations.

Getting your legal ducks in a row means exploring your risk areas – human resources policies, compliance and

safety issues, dispute resolution procedures, liability waivers, compliance with state and federal laws, and maintaining liability insurance.

Legal requirements will vary depending on the type of business. Some businesses have specific legal requirements like health service providers or food service providers. Product providers have additional legal requirements.

The contracts you create are relationship-building tools with customers, vendors and employees. A well-crafted contract can help business owners manage risk, avoid unnecessary disputes, limit liability and avoid unintended legal obligations.

How you handle disputes is key to being proactive. Mishandling of disputes can lead to an escalation of the problem, litigation, public relations nightmares, bad internet reviews, reduced business, destruction of beneficial relationships, reduced productivity, and unneeded stress and legal fees.

American Disability Act Compliance is mandatory for entities with 15 or more employees. If you have fewer than 15 you should comply in good faith because it's good for business.

When marketing your business, be careful of false or deceptive advertising. Don't promise what you can't deliver. POMWonderful LLC, also known as POM, was sued because it said in ads for the juice that it could cheat death. Federal regulators released a ruling

in 2013 that "Cheat Death" on the ads made misleading claims about the drink's health benefits.

In addition, a business needs to not only protect the business but must also protect its brand. You worked hard to establish your business – protect it. A trademark protects your brand name or logo or symbol. It allows customers to differentiate your business from others. If you have a brand, then registration of your trademark is paramount. Once you have registered your trademark, identification and correct use of the trademark is essential. If you don't use, it you lose it. Another important point on use of trademark is monitoring potential infringements.

Asset protection is another key area for businesses. Threats to individual and business wealth can arise from a variety of sources: contract creditors, consumer and bank debt, contingent liabilities, joint and several partnership obligations, and business litigation.

A good accountant, good record keeping, and fee structures are all essential to a sound financial structure. Analyze your operational needs, space limitations, and long-term storage requirements, and use this to create a holistic scheme. You won't stay in business long if you don't follow laws or safety standards. When you don't minimize potential risk you lose abundance and money leaks out.

Your holistic scheme must include the ability to adapt, the ability to delegate,

being proactive instead of reactive, seeking the measures you need to protect your business, and developing new mindsets and beliefs about our companies and our roles within them.

Remember the saying, "a belief is something we have told ourselves over and over until we believe it to be true." Remove the negativity, internal resistances, and fears from your business model. Often businesses suffer because of internal resistances and fears, such as resistance to keeping good records and establishing Human Resources policies.

Businesses suffer when they fail to establish parameters for the use of email, internet, and social media by employees.

If you don't want it public, don't write it in an email or post it on social media.

Lastly, in order for a business to flourish, intention is a must. What is your intention? My intention for my own business is:

"I want to have a business where I make a difference, where I effectuate change and help others, and I make the world a better place."

What is your intention? What is your vision?

This is what a holistic entrepreneur does – finds the balance with what you love and what you do.



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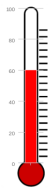


by Joe Woods  
Groundcover Vendor #103

I would like to go to the International Street News Paper conference this June for educational and networking purposes. Being in the sales field, you're never too experienced to learn new sales techniques. It is always good to keep up with what's new, what may need improvement, and just general ideas in competition.

The conference would give me a chance to see this business on a bigger level. Being in sales you have to be prepared and ready when opportunity knocks. Being at this conference will benefit me because I will be getting knowledge and ideas from other non-profit owners, which could possibly benefit Groundcover News, as well as more sales techniques which I could apply for myself and use to coach other vendors to increase their sales and, consequently, those of Groundcover News.

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## Do you know your vendor?



by Elizabeth "Lit" Kurtz  
Groundcover Vendor #159

I am fortunate that I have people who buy from me, but there are also those who smile and say have a nice day who will probably never buy from me. This is the nature of Groundcover. It gives people an opportunity to connect with us, forming a relationship with the vendor and a sense of loyalty to the paper.

I have customers who have remembered my birthday and given me a gift. There are customers with whom I chat regularly who look forward to upcoming issues. I have learned the names of customers. People who stop to say hello to me often know me by my first name.

I even have a customer who critiques my articles to the extent that it has

caused me pause and I have to rally so as not to lose my voice as a writer under his sharp critique. Many of my customers have encouraged me to keep writing and perhaps even publish a book. The comments I received last month gave me the encouragement to continue writing. The street paper (and our very own Groundcover, in particular) is a publication that has prevented many from sinking under from the weight of homelessness.

Far from panhandling, it offers a product that has given many the opportunity to realize dreams. My dream of writing is being realized here. I'm sure that every vendor would say how important their customers are. From birthday gifts and other demonstrations of support, words can't always express how every customer is valued.

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## Natural Area Preservation Volunteer Events – June 2015



As part of University of Michigan Law School orientation program Service Day, 11 incoming law students volunteered with the Ann Arbor Parks Department at Cedar Bend Nature Area. Alex Park (on the cover) and his classmates helped remove three invasive plant species brought to the region by early European settlers.



City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation (NAP) works to protect and restore Ann Arbor's natural areas and to foster a strong environmental ethic among its citizens. This involves conducting plant and animal inventories, ecological monitoring, and stewardship projects in Ann Arbor's parks. These tasks are performed by both staff and volunteers. Volunteer opportunities coming up are listed below. For more information about NAP, visit [a2gov.org/NAP](http://a2gov.org/NAP). Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes to workday events.

### **Bird Walk at Gallup Park** **Saturday, June 6, 7:30-9:30 a.m.**

Free for all ages and family-friendly! Join City Ornithologist Dea Armstrong as she leads a walk to look for birds in the morning in Gallup Park and Furstenberg Nature Area. Binoculars are helpful. Meet at the paddleboat dock near the canoe livery.

### **Stewardship Workday – National Trails Day: Sunset Brooks Nature Area** **Saturday, June 6, 9-noon**

Get outside and help maintain the trails in this oak-hickory woodland for National Trails Day! Meet at the park entrance on Sunset Road, at the end of Brooks Street.

### **Stewardship Workday – National Trails Day: Bird Hills Nature Area** **Saturday, June 6, 1-4 p.m.**

With over three miles of trails winding through this diverse natural area, Bird Hills Nature Area is the perfect place to celebrate National Trails Day by helping maintain and improve the trails in this beautiful natural area. Please meet at the Bird Road park entrance.

### **Stewardship Workday – National Trails Day: Black Pond Woods** **Sunday, June 7, 9-noon**

Black Pond Woods' trails wind through woods of oak, hickory, maple and dogwood. Help keep these woods beautiful by improving trails in celebration of National Trails Day. Please meet at the Leslie Science & Nature Center parking lot, 1831 Traver Rd.

### **Stewards' Circle: Taking Inventory – How to Survey and Interpret Data** **Tuesday, June 9, 7:30-8:30 a.m.** **Bruegger's Bagels – 709 N University Ave.**

How do you measure success in restoration? One way is to inventory the species present before and after restoration activities. Join us to discuss the different methods and techniques used to survey and monitor restoration efforts. For more information, visit [stewardshipnetwork.org](http://stewardshipnetwork.org).

### **AADL Nature Hike: Argo Nature Area** **Thursday, June 11, 7-8:30 p.m.**

On this walk we will observe and discuss native plants present in the spring, as well as restoration efforts which have occurred over the past few years at this site. Meet at the Argo Canoe Livery parking lot, 551 Longshore Dr.

### **Stewardship Workday – National Get Outdoors Day: Argo Nature Area** **Saturday, June 13, 9-noon**

Winding through many diverse habitats, Argo's trails perch atop ridges, providing hikers with scenic river vistas. Help remove invasive plant species. Please meet in the Argo Canoe Livery parking lot near the entrance to the woods, 1055 Longshore Dr.

### **Stewardship Workday – National Get Outdoors Day: Dolph Nature Area**

### **Saturday, June 13, 1-4 p.m.**

Did you know that Dolph Nature Area is home to the only natural lakes in Ann Arbor? The trails winding around these lakes are situated to offer fantastic views for bird watching and wildlife sightings. Help keep the trails open and inviting by cutting back invasive shrubs and hand-pulling invasive species. Please meet at the parking lot on the east side of Wagner Road, between Liberty and Jackson.

### **Stewardship Workday: Mary Beth Doyle Park** **Sunday, June 14, 1-4 p.m.**

Walk along Mallets Creek, check out wildlife at the pond, join a game of disc golf, or ride your bike on a paved path – no matter what you're doing at this park, you're sure to see the benefits of ongoing restoration work by dedicated volunteers. We will continue this restoration work by doing several projects at the park, including pulling invasive species, picking up litter, cutting back shrubs and more. Please meet at the Packard park entrance.

### **Stewardship Workday: Ruthven Nature Area** **Saturday, June 20, 1-4 p.m.**

Great progress has been made to reduce the encroachment of invasive

plant species in this nature area. Help continue this effort by removing invasive plants to give native plants a chance to thrive. Please meet at the Gallup boat launch parking lot, on the southeast corner of Huron Parkway and Geddes Road.

### **Stewardship Workday: Furstenberg Native Garden** **Saturday, June 27, 9-noon**

Help us weed and preserve this native garden amidst the 38 acres of Furstenberg Nature Area, featuring some of the most diverse flora anywhere in Ann Arbor. Plus, you're certain to learn a lot about native plants, particularly prairie plants, from Park Steward and Master Gardener Aunita Erskine. Please meet in the parking lot off Fuller Road, across from Huron High School.

### **Stewardship Workday: Furstenberg Nature Area** **Saturday, June 27, 9-noon**

Furstenberg is a lovely 38-acre riverside park, home to wetlands, woodlands, prairie and oak savannah. Help us remove invasive plants so the native ecosystem can thrive. Please meet in the parking lot off Fuller Road, across from Huron High School.



## **Bethlehem** **United Church of Christ**

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-665-6149

*Bethlehem Church is the home of the Groundcover office*

### **Sunday Worship Times**

8:30 am and 10:00 am

Summer Sunday school at 10:15 am  
Fellowship Hour follows each service



## Sudoku ★★★★★ 4puz.com

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Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

## Cryptoquote:

ZV MXESKO IOKO X  
DXMP, EAOR IWSYN  
AXUO XYKONR  
KOTGSON ZE.  
– ONSXKNW JXYOXMW

Clue: X = d

## Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

**All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:**

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1, or the face value of the paper. I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell

to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not “hard sell,” threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

**If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to:**  
**contact@groundcovernews.com**  
**734-707-9210**

### ACROSS

1. Technical data sheet, for short
5. Hollywood director, Oscar winner
10. Stork-like bird
14. Fat (prefix)
15. Edge of the green
16. Discourteous
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Novello, Welsh actor
18. \_\_\_\_\_ Spencer, Princess of Wales
19. Bouillabaisse
20. Ingredient sometimes found in hair products
23. Become darker
24. Cultural
25. Audio interference
27. Secret \_\_\_\_\_
30. High acclaim
32. Trajectory
35. Chilean village
37. Bid
39. Tropical country
41. Electric surge
43. Musical pitch
44. Villain
46. Type of acid
48. Yang's complement
49. Zenith's antithesis
51. Cookies
53. Son of Amram
55. Grassland
59. Shapeless substance
61. Loosely woven fabric
64. Fragrance
66. \_\_\_\_\_ fool
67. Self (prefix)
68. Queen of Carthage
69. Italian clothier
70. Tennis shots
71. Linger
72. Abominable
73. Scant

### DOWN

1. Thin slab
2. Fixed point
3. Indeterminate time period
4. Solar layer
5. Medical symbol
6. Adopt \_\_\_\_\_ Rescue, dog shelter
7. Infant's vehicle

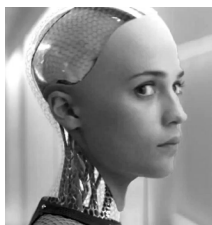
### At the dairy

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| 71 |    |    |    |    | 72 |    |    |    |    |    | 73 |    |    |    |

8. Samurai
9. Something similar
10. Government agency (abbr.)
11. Winged insect
12. Notion
13. Planted
21. Close
22. Metric prefix
26. Settee
28. California city
29. Prunes
31. Legendary creature
32. Florida airport code
33. Jockey's gear
34. Soft drink
36. Similar
38. Howard or Paul

40. Reverse
42. Applied a coating (to ceramics)
45. Data medium
47. International organization (abbr.)
50. Belabor
52. Genuflect
54. Brown
56. *Irma La* \_\_\_\_\_
57. Aquatic mammal
58. Possessive pronoun
59. Pantheon
60. Mine passage
62. Formerly, poetically
63. Location
65. Patrick \_\_\_\_\_, NHL goaltender

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond



## Film Review: *Ex Machina* (2015)

by Andrew Nixon  
Associate Editor

“If you’ve created a conscious machine it’s not the history of man... that’s the history of Gods.” So pronounces protagonist Caleb, a computer programmer hired by leading Internet search engine CEO Nathan who has found himself in the remarkable position of making history by performing the world’s first test of artificial intelligence (AI) – the subject around which this brilliant and thought-provoking film’s many-faceted exploration of the implications of AI revolves.

The test is a real-life version of the famous Turing test – a thought experiment proposed by Alan Turing, whose contributions to WWII Allied efforts were depicted in last year’s much-acclaimed *The Imitation Game*. Turing posited that a computer can claim consciousness if human judges, blindly interacting with it remotely, believe it’s human.

Debut director Alex Garland makes the best-possible case for his perspective, unwinding the provocative story with economy, wit, and incredible narrative tension, and focusing just as much on the humanity of the situation as on big ideas.

The three main characters were excellently cast. Domhnall Gleeson imbues Caleb with intelligence,

a sensitive conscience, and a certain geeky charm. Oscar Isaac is commanding as Nathan, an AI engineer genius with questionable intentions yet unfathomable charisma. And newcomer Alicia Vikander, beautiful and poised yet sharp and calculating, gracefully embodies the “I” in AI as Ava, really putting *us*, the viewers, to the test: has Nathan truly taken the Creator’s reins and managed to create a new life form in (wo)man’s image? Throughout the film, we *are* Caleb, and we follow his journey – his amazement, his growing enamoredness with Ava, his ethical confusion in making sense of what – or who – stands before him. We sympathize with what he thinks and *feels* about what this means – for him, for Ava, and for humanity at large.

*Ex Machina* is a near-perfect up-close-and-personal exploration of AI, engrossingly told, visually beautiful, impeccably performed, and wielding exquisite intelligence in exploring an important social hot-topic and in conveying its many deep thoughts in a both comprehensible and elegant manner. It rightfully joins an elite corpus of sci-fi masterpieces dealing with AI – particularly *2001*, *Blade Runner*, *A.I.*, and *Her* – and will surely provide lasting inspiration for the ongoing dialogue about humanity’s relationship to its technology, the nature of consciousness... and the nature of *human nature*.



# Legalizing illegal immigrants – don't bet against Obama

by Martin Stolzenberg  
Groundcover News Contributor

Over the last six years, President Obama has been accused of many things, but being stupid is not one of them. So how come the loyal Republican opposition is ranting and raving over whether he has the authority to grant amnesty to about five million illegal immigrants now in the country?

The *Washington Post* of Oct. 20, 2014, anticipating a presidential executive order, wrote, "Senators Marco Rubio, John McCain and Lindsey Graham – who all collaborated with Mr. Obama and the Democrats last year to pass a broad legalization bill in the Senate – said in a letter that the president lacks the legal authority to act on his own, and it would be a mistake anyway, because it would invite more illegal immigrants to try crossing the border."

On Feb. 18, 2015, on *cbsnews.com*, potential presidential contender Senator Ted Cruz chimed in that the commander-in-chief "is ignoring federal law." Speaker of the House John Boehner said, "We are finalizing a plan to authorize litigation on this issue, one that we believe has the best chance for success," as cited by *MSNBC*.

While the Republicans have had a little success with a friendly Texas Federal judge in obtaining a temporary stay to stop the new immigration action, they are bound to lose this case. The reason why is obvious. Has anyone looked at the President's resume or curriculum vitae? What do you know? In his former life he focused on Constitutional Law while at Harvard Law School and taught the course on Constitutional Law at the University of Chicago. In other words, he can be considered an authority on the subject. No doubt he also "vetted" this action with prominent Constitutional authorities. Do the Republicans think he would go ahead with the plan if he thought he would wind up with egg on his face? It's unlikely.

So why are the Republicans carrying on while they fully know that the President has the right to do this? They are doing it to try to cover up their own inadequacies, a failure to seize the moment. After all, the Senate passed a comprehensive bill to accomplish this in 2013, similar to what the President is now unilaterally doing. But House Speaker John Boehner tabled the bill to appease the ultra-Conservatives and Tea Party members of the House. So it just sat there for two years.

Finally, mindful that the clock was ticking on his term in office, the President

decided to take action – that is, executive action. He was probably frustrated at the delay and aware of his historical legacy. Also, obviously galling, the Republicans and the press had been saying he was a "lame duck." There was no lead-up announcement. Dramatically, on Nov. 30, 2014 he simply announced, without warning, what he was going to do. With this bold action President Obama laid these accusations of a languishing president to rest. Coupled with his vetoing of Keystone XL Pipeline, the President demonstrated his authority and command of the situation.

What makes Obama and his advocates think they can do this? Take a look at the history of presidential executive actions and see what we can make of it. According to the *Legal Information Institute*, "In Article II of the Constitution, the President can issue executive orders, which have the force of law but do not have to be approved by Congress."

In times of emergency, the President can override Congress and issue executive orders with almost limitless powers. This was done in war time going back to Presidents Lincoln, Wilson and Roosevelt. And over time, presidents have come to take executive action on varied issues. In a 1952 Supreme Court case, *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v Sawyer*, "Seven justices indicated that the power of the President is not limited to those powers expressly granted in Article II," according to Doug Linder of the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

In fact, the busiest president in issuing these orders recently was Jimmy Carter, who averaged 80 per year. Out of 10 recent presidents, the fewest on record was – guess who? – Barack Obama, with 33.6 per year in office.

"Over the nation's long history, with only short interruptions, power has flowed increasingly to the Executive Branch," said Linder.

The issue of how far-reaching these executive orders are must be part of the evaluation. In this regard, President Obama has been a busy beaver. He signed an order forcing power plants to cut their emissions, instigated 23 separate orders on gun control, extended the rights for same-sex couples, and raised the minimum wage for federal workers and companies doing business with the government.

President Obama's actions on immigration, it could be argued, goes beyond what his predecessors have done, but he certainly has not been alone in issuing

all sorts of executive actions. His immediate predecessor, President George W. Bush, did things like reducing access to presidential records, limiting federal funding of stem cell research, and sidestepping the Geneva Convention accord on interrogation.

Bill Clinton was no slouch, either, with executive orders. He banned the import of semi-automatic weapons, forced us to become more in line with Agenda 21, the U.N. agenda on sustainability, and focused federal attention on environmental justice.

President Reagan, too, was active in executive authority, including empowering the NSA to collect internet data, firing the striking air controllers, banning federal workers from using drugs and giving an order about cattle grazing that had Westerners in a snit.

In probably the most famous executive action of them all, in January 1863 President Lincoln freed all the slaves living within the boundary of the Confederacy. If a president could do that, it stands to reason an African-American president has the authority to let the illegal immigrants stay here legally. It also stands to reason that there is no

"line in the sand" on how many such orders a president can exercise. As a matter of fact, thousands of these actions have been written by presidents. Look for the President to do more of them in the coming two years, especially if Congress continues to be gripped by inertia.

One more thing: Out of the thousands of executive actions in our history (as many as 50,000, says the *American Presidency Project*), how many do you think have been overridden by the Courts? Bet you didn't know that the answer is "two," according to *Forbes* of Jan. 28, 2013. They were: "President Harry Truman seeking to nationalize all the steel mills in 1952 when the workers wanted to go out on strike, and President Clinton's 1995 attempted order to preclude the federal government from contracting with firms that have strike breakers on their rolls." That's all there are – two.

But you can imagine that the pretty smart guy who is President knows that. What do you think he is, stupid or something?

Want to bet against us saying "Hello, 5 million illegal immigrants"?

## Washtenaw County Senior Nutrition Program

Persons over the age of 60 are invited to join us for hot meals, nutrition education, and an opportunity for socialization and recreation.

Participants are encouraged to share in the cost of the meal to the extent that they are able. The suggested contribution is \$3.00; however, people 60 and over will not be turned away because of inability to contribute.

For more information and directions, please call:

**734-544-2977**



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
*Collaborative solutions for a promising future*



## Get help with substance abuse & mental health at Ann Arbor Library

by Claire Wagler  
Groundcover Intern

Substance abuse and mental health issues like depression or anxiety affect so many people in the world today, and finding the strength and willingness to get help can be a very hard thing to do. Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS) and Project Outreach (PORT) in Washtenaw County try to make getting help more achievable by offering free programs and support groups at the Downtown Ann Arbor District Library (AADL).

If you or a loved one is suffering from substance abuse, you can drop in at the weekly meetings of *Discovery Group* on Mondays from 1:30-3:00 in the 2nd floor Study Room. Anyone is welcome, whether you feel you do not need help for substance abuse, are considering getting help, or just want to find out more about what help and services are available. Call facilitator Mike Ferriter at 734-787-5961 or John Davidson at 734-864-6870 for more information.

Another weekly drop-in meeting at the

AADL aims to help those with mental health issues who may need help finding housing or treatment in Washtenaw County. Project Outreach hosts weekly *PORT Drop-In: Health & Housing Assistance* meetings on Thursdays from 2-4 in the 2nd floor Study Room.

The Thursday meetings are designed to specifically serve those who are homeless and have mental health issues and those involved with the justice system who need mental health assistance. PORT can provide psychiatric services

such as consultations with psychologists and medication management to anyone in need. Call facilitator Jason Prince at 734-222-3750 for more information.

Both substance abuse and mental health issues are serious matters, and no one should have to deal with them alone. Groundcover News encourages anyone suffering due to these issues to seek out the free community resources available to you in Washtenaw County.

### Last Thursday You Came for Tea

by Karen L. Totten

Last Thursday you came for tea, and brought a book of poems,

*Wrestling With Angels*, written by a woman from your church

and I have been reading them, back and forth,

with passages from Harry Potter. Now here those angels

arrive today to sit at my breakfast table, scuffling into the butter,

knocking over the water glasses, these holy beings

fighting for my heart's privilege. What is to be done with them?

I'll send them to the kitchen to tend the bacon and wash the dirty pots,

an honest day's work might sort them out. Their blessings are late to bear,

my heart is already broken-- grief arrived with yesterday's post and I fear

what I'll have to give up if I let them stay—I'll have to make another dogged effort,

fill in the creases loss has left behind, forgive these everyday sins.

And I'll fight these angels with everything I've got,

until it is no use and I have to accept their loving faces

behind the morning papers and eating all the strawberries.

### A Comic Book Hero Is Someone To Be

For my mother, Kathleen

by Karen L. Totten

I never have read many of her comic book adventures,

just watched the schlocky t.v. program wherein she looked like a model

for star-spangled lingerie, but still, I'd like to be Wonder Woman,

Queen of the newsstand landscape, even just for a day,

swinging the famed Lariat of Hestia, that golden Lasso of Truth

dropping over the surprised heads of my erstwhile lawyer, the car guy

out at the auto mall, and a few hundred politicians hiding in Texas or Wyoming,

or, why not, all of D.C.? Noose widened and lengthened to ring the Beltway

in coils of irresistible verity.

Sure, we'd have a new day, then!

I'd slip into her classic good looks (blessings from Aphrodite),

splendid hair waving onto alabaster shoulders, girdle of burnished gold

like a shield encircling my mythical, albeit genuine embellishments,

Amazon blood powering my muscled legs—I'd run like a stealthy panther

ready to pounce on Danger or Trouble or Wrong Doing.

My mother always says, be careful what you long for.

She says, "Truth might float free, attach itself to Justice,

and then you'd really have your hands full." I would smote deceit, mend the world,

one foible at a time. Here I stand, imagining all the powers of wise Athena,

gifts of my desiring evaporating fear and bringing us to Peace.

At 6 foot tall, lithe and fierce, I'd scare off the meek,

but some might join me, Joan of Arc, or Buffy, or my mother.

We'll walk side by side.

We'll all don the silken cape.



## Nanotech unbound



James ponders the societal implications of nanotechnology.

by James Manning  
Groundcover Vendor #16

Nanotechnology – the stuff of dreams for every science fiction fan – is becoming science fact. The concept of nanotechnology has been around for decades and has been considered theoretically plausible. Now here we find ourselves in the 21st century viewing this as upcoming technology, thanks to our advanced means of programming, mapping, processing, and computing. It boggles the mind to think that this will exist in a handful of decades, maybe even sooner. With this being a possibility, the imagination is the limit.

So what is nanotech, exactly? Think of it as millions – no, trillions – of microscopic robots that can be programmed to reorganize any material down to its atomic structure however the programmer desires. Nanotech can be applied in infinite ways; it could be used to defeat all forms of sickness, cancer and disease. Medically, it would be miraculous! We're talking about amputees having new limbs rather than prosthetics. We could save our environment, regrow

forests; we could very well terraform other planets.

But with all good things, so come the bad. It's a sad reality that this technology can easily be weaponized in all kinds of horrific ways.

There will always be people who would abuse the power of nanotech. The nightmares would be countless, starting with programmable viruses to destroy whatever organic matter you could think of. We could wipe out all traces of vegetation, any specific species – this includes us – to complete extinction. It could be placed between atomic structures and rip them apart, guaranteeing utter destruction. It could also be programmed to replicate endlessly to the point that the earth itself would be left as a virtual ocean of nanomachines. To put it simply, weaponized nanotech is the stuff of nightmares.

Thankfully, in anticipation of this upcoming technology there has already been serious thought put into restricting the use of nanotech for ill purposes. Countless restrictions and laws have already been put into place for the sake of preventing global disaster. There are websites addressing such matters – the Center for Responsible Nanotechnology, [crnano.org](http://crnano.org), is just one example. So, thanks to such considerations, I, for one, can sleep a little easier at night.

Despite treaties and restrictions, there will always be a possibility of nanotech falling into the wrong hands, very much like the chemical weapons of today. However, as I stated before, there are certainly many positive aspects as well.

We could actually rid the world of all pollution – perhaps truly dispose of radioactive waste, perhaps even nuclear fallout itself. We just might be able to repair our ozone layer.

So there are many good uses that could make our world a paradise once more. Some of these are being developed locally at the University of Michigan Lurie Nanotechnology Facility.

And I'm thrilled about the prospect of terraforming new worlds. Mars might someday see water and life, a dead planet resurrected. This is a wonderful technology to speculate about, and I love considering the possibilities it promises for creating a much better world.

## F.O.C. Amnesty, June 1–5 Only!

The Friend of the Court is offering amnesty from its bench warrants from June 1 through June 5.

The aim of the Washtenaw County Friend of the Court (FOC) Goal is helping families come together, communicate and work things out. Issuing a bench warrant, which can result in the arrest of a parent seriously behind in payments, is a tool of last resort. An outstanding bench warrant makes it nearly impossible to get a job and causes people to live in fear of the police.

To assist people who have fallen behind to get back on track, the FOC is offering a five-day amnesty period, from Monday June 1 through Friday June 5. During that time, anyone who comes to their office seeking to resolve their warrant will not be arrested. The

warrant will be rescinded if the person makes a \$100 child or spousal support payment (cash, or credit card with identification) and speaks with one of the FOC judicial services officers (who are being assigned cases alphabetically by last name).

While the warrant will go away, a payment plan for the support payments will still need to be worked out. Anyone wondering whether they have an outstanding Washtenaw County Friend of the Court bench warrant can either call 734-222-3050 or visit [www.michigan.gov/micase](http://www.michigan.gov/micase).

The FOC office is located in the County Courthouse at 101 North Huron St. in Ann Arbor. Their normal hours of operation are 8-4:45, but they will open at 7:30 on June 3-4 and stay open until 5:45 on June 3 and June 5.

## Cryptoquote Solution

If nature were a bank,  
they would have  
already rescued it.  
– Eduardo Galeano

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## Strawberry Spinach Salad (with grilled chicken)



by Liz Bauman

This is one of my family's favorite salads and given to me by long-time friend Lu McKay. It is easy to satisfy vegetarians by omitting the chicken. A delicious salad made even better with freshly-picked Michigan strawberries.

### Salad:

1 lb. fresh leaf spinach (washed and lightly chopped)

1 quart strawberries (washed and sliced)

Grilled boneless chicken breasts, cut into strips (marinate in teriyaki sauce before grilling)

Mix together with dressing just before serving.

### Dressing:

1/2 cup sugar

1 teaspoon salt

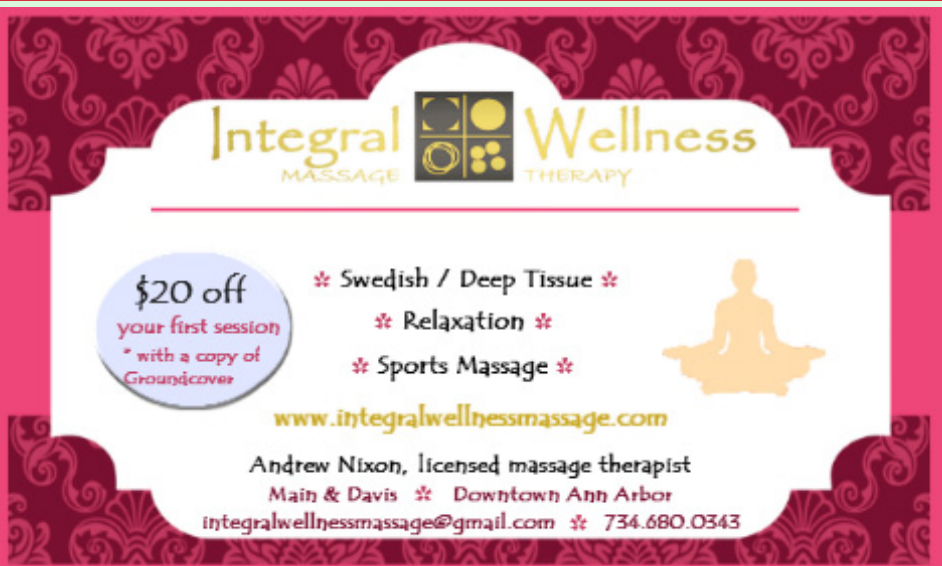
1 teaspoon dry mustard (I have also used classic mustard)

3/4 cup oil

1/3 cup red wine vinegar

1 tablespoon poppy seeds

Mix well in blender.



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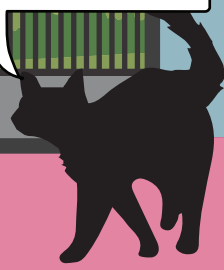
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## Strange (but Mostly True) Stories About a Mother and her Daughter • Cy Klone © 2015

You seem to be getting a bit too comfortable spending nights on the balcony.

What do you mean? After the weather warmed up you've stopped whining and spent more nights out there too.



Yes, but I don't leave the door open all night for bugs to fly in and out.

I guess I'm just a more mobile cat than you. I need my space and I need room to move.



That doesn't change how inconsiderate you are to not close the screen after you open it.

Hey, sometimes it's the call of the wild out there and sometimes it's the call of the dinner bowl inside.



In other words you want to be free to move around, yet with all the conveniences of home. Maybe he should get an RV to drive you around in.

That would be soooo cool!!!!

